

State Librarian's Report
Prepared for August 10, Commission Meeting
By Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian
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This could also be labeled the Last State Librarian's Report prepared by Darlene Staffeldt for the Commission for their August 10th meeting. As I pondered this last formal report, I wonder if I should be wrapping up and reminding you all of what we have accomplished or if I should be helping you prepare the to-do list for the future Commission, State Librarian, and staff. I should note that other documents in your packet for this meeting, such as, the Long Range Plan 2006-2011 evaluation piece and the Long Range Plan 2012-2022 draft, formally do both of these things for the State Librarian, State Library Staff, and Commission.

So in my report, I would like to personalize it a little with some of the projects/products I am most proud of during my time here at the State Library and with the to-do lists of things for the new State Librarian and Commission to make a priority as much as possible for the future.

I will quote from Charles Dickens "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." On September 15, 1976 at 8:00 am, One Darlene Marie Preble reported to duty as the Reference Librarian to then State Librarian Alma Jacobs. On September 15, 2011 I intend to work my last day at the Montana State Library as State Librarian. It is the worst of times and very hard for me to say goodbye. I have enjoyed my many positions (9 of them), I think I have been a part of wonderful projects and services for Montana citizens throughout the Montana Library Community, but it is the best of times as well because it is time to move on. Move on to more time with family, more time on health issues, more time to travel, more time to finish the quilting, cross stitch, or tatting projects, more time to read, etc. etc.

During my time here at the State Library, I have worked with six other State Librarians, over 50 Commissioners, well over 100 staff members, closely with over 30 Representatives or Senators, and with six

Governors. For the right price I will be glad to share the names of my favorites in each of these categories.

Some of my proudest accomplishments (recognizing that no accomplishments are mine alone, I have always had great staff working for and with me) while at the State Library would include:

- Hired many fantastic staff members, some of them more than once.
- Provided support for the many people who brought Information Access Montana Legislation to the Legislature and got it passed with the first state aid for libraries in 1989.
- Provided support as the Natural Resources Information System (NRIS) and Natural Heritage Program (NHP) were developed. I also provided leadership in the latest great collaboration and positive step in which we merge both physically and administratively with the Base Map Service Center (BMSC).
- Pushed for and received full legislative/coal tax funding for statewide databases.
- Planned for, developed, and implemented broadband pay plan for the entire agency.
- Bonus pay distributed to all.
- Regular visits to libraries in the field.
- Commission visits to libraries across the state.
- Encouraged staff in the preparation of the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) grant application development and implementation.
- Encouraged and as appropriate enabled staff and others to develop, implement and/or explore, many statewide cooperative projects such as the Courier pilot project, MontanaLibrary2Go, Montana Shared Catalog, Montana Memory Project, and the Ready2Read project.

While much has been accomplished during my tenure as the State Librarian, there are some things that are still on my "to-do" list, which I hope will continue to be pursued (and eventually accomplished) to continue to move the State Library forward. They include:

- State recognition of the value and the need to fund with state money some of the ongoing LSTA funded programs such as the

Talking Book Library and the Statewide Library Consultants. State funding would assure the continuance of these critical programs while at the same time freeing up some LSTA funding for additional pilots and statewide projects that help all Montana librarians and libraries provide great services to all Montanans.

- Work with librarians, trustees and friends of libraries throughout the state to advocate for libraries, remind all the value and importance of libraries and the impact they make on everyday lives of many Montanans.
- Work with the Office of Public Instruction to deal with issues such as statues related to the development of school/community libraries in Montana and statewide funding for resources used by all types of libraries (including schools) to better serve Montanans.
- Work with the GIS community across Montana including state agencies, as well as the private and public sectors to appropriately fund the important data necessary for the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure framework that is once again so critical to all Montanans.
- Allocate appropriate raises for the hard working State Library staff members.
- Continue work within the library community for more collaborative and cooperative efforts and projects, because projects such as MontanaLibrary2go and the pilot courier project have shown that we are getting the best bang for the buck when we work together. If we all stretch beyond our imaginations and work together, wonderful things can happen for all Montanans via their libraries.

What more can I say? What questions can I answer for you? What directions do you have for me as I continue these next 50 days to do my best for the State Library Commission, the State Library Staff, and the Library/Geographic Communities?